

### Completed Investigations of Oil Industry Pricing

Date of Investigation	Investigating Body	Description of Probe
May 1973	FTC	"...investigation of competition in the industry is incomplete and no decision about any antitrust action has been made" – New York Times
August 1975	Pennsylvania	Grand jury investigation underway – Newsweek
1977 – 1983	DOJ	"The Justice Department yesterday ended a six-year investigation it said produced scant evidence that the major oil companies had conspired to run up the price of Persian Gulf oil in the late 1970s." – Washington Post
May 1979	DOJ	"President Carter orders investigation of gasoline shortages in California. Report cites loss of Iranian crude supplies following overthrow of the Shah and finds insufficient evidence of collusion." – Houston Chronicle, May 29, 1996
1984	DOJ	"investigates increases in home heating oil prices in the winter of 1983-84." – Houston Chronicle, May 29, 1996
1989	37 State Attorneys General	"Over half the states...have launched investigations of possible price-gouging...Thirty-seven state attorneys general wrote to the Justice department requesting an investigation of gas-price increases." – St. Petersburg Times
January 1990	DOJ	"...again looks into home heating oil and propane prices after prices spiked during an especially bitter cold snap in December 1990." – Houston Chronicle, May 29, 1996
August 1990	DOJ	"The antitrust division began the investigation on Aug. 6 in response to the nearly immediate increase in gasoline prices after the invasion [of Kuwait]." – New York Times "The investigation is called off two years later." – Houston Chronicle, May 29, 1996
September 1990	United Kingdom	"The five major UK oil companies, Shell, Esso, BP, Texaco and Mobil, were today cleared by the Office of Fair Trading of fixing petrol pump prices... There was no evidence of collusion..." – Press Association
1993 – 1995	North Carolina	"Apparently, the monopoly question needs further study" – Charleston Gazette (editorial)

AG Investigation Initiated in 1994	Minnesota	
1994-1998	Arizona	"Gas prices in Arizona are high, but don't blame hush-hush price-fixing meetings in corporate boardrooms, the Attorney General's Office concluded in a report released Monday after a four-year investigation." – Arizona Republic
May 1996–May 1997	DOJ	<p>"Bingaman has set up a five-member panel of attorneys and economists within the division 'to study recent increases of gasoline prices.' If this task force finds that market forces are not responsible...it will investigate to determine whether there is any evidence of collusion within the industry." – BNA Antitrust &amp; Trade Regulation Daily</p> <p>"No enforcement action was taken," a DOJ spokeswoman said. – Houston Chronicle, May 20, 1997</p> <p>"The [DOJ] completed its investigation of rapidly rising gasoline prices that occurred last spring by declaring it found no evidence that refiners and marketers engaged in price fixing or any illegal activity." 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fuels, June 1997</p>
May 1996	Canada	<p>"The [Competition] Bureau first investigated allegations of collusion and price-fixing in 1973. Several subsequent inquiries have all produced the same result: no evidence was found to prove that the big oil companies act in concert to dictate retail gasoline prices." – Maclean's, May 27, 1996</p> <p>"Officials from the departments of industry and natural resources say privately that the inquiry...is unlikely to uncover a sinister conspiracy by the oil companies to fix pump prices that often fluctuate in unison according to gas supplies and the time of year." – Maclean's, June 3, 1996</p>
October 1997	Connecticut	"The U.S. Conference of Northeast Governors (CONEG)...called on major oil companies to explain recent gasoline price increases, and Connecticut Gov. John Rowland (R) is expecting a report this month that might be referred to the State Attorney General for an investigation into possible price-fixing." Octane Week, October 13, 1997

May 1998	FTC	"After an almost three year investigation, the Commission found no evidence of conduct by the refiners [in the Western States] that violated federal antitrust laws." FTC press release, May 7, 2001. Investigation closed.
May 1998	Iowa	"The Iowa Attorney General's office launched an investigation into price fixing in Dubuque and Waterloo. The Attorney General's office said from the beginning that proving price-fixing without insider would be difficult and did not find evidence of it." – Des Moines Register
GAO Study of California Prices Initiated 1999	GAO	GAO study of California gasoline prices requested by Sen. Feinstein finds the state's high gasoline prices are due to the strict supply and demand nature of gasoline.
AG Investigation Initiated Summer of 1999	California	Preliminary investigation reveals no evidence of wrongdoing; high gas prices may be the result of low competition in the market.
AG Investigation Initiated Summer of 1999	Alaska	"The investigation was initiated in 1999 in response to public complaints about the high price of gasoline in Alaska in comparison to other states," [AG] Botelho said. "I am closing the investigation because there is insufficient evidence indicating a violation of the antitrust laws." Governor's Press Release (Nov. 21, 2002).
AG Investigation Initiated Summer of 2000	Iowa	"Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller said Thursday he uncovered no evidence of illegal price-fixing, collusion or antitrust violations while investigating spikes in gasoline prices last summer." – The Gazette, April 20, 2001
AG Investigation Initiated Summer of 2000	Missouri	No evidence of wrongdoing. Investigation closed.
AG Investigation Initiated Summer of 2000	Indiana	No evidence of wrongdoing. Investigation closed.
Investigation of Midwest Prices Initiated Summer of 2000	FTC	No evidence of industry wrongdoing/collusion. Final FTC Report released March 30, 2001. Investigation closed.
AG Investigation Initiated Spring 2001	New York	"Recent higher gasoline costs [in New York] are not the result of price gouging, price fixing or other collusion, conclude State attorney General Eliot Spitzer." – Times Union, May 13, 2001

AG Investigation Initiated Summer of 2000	Kentucky	Initial investigation of Kentucky gasoline prices last summer [2000] found no wrongdoing; specific investigation in Louisville's West End remains open. – Courier Journal, May 11, 2001
Impact of Mergers on Gas prices; Initiated Summer of 2002	GAO	GAO findings due to Senate Subcommittee on Investigations (Senate Government Reform Committee) by August 2002.
AG Investigations Initiated September 2001	Minnesota	No evidence of illegal pricing behavior by retailers or refiners following terrorist activity of September 11.
DOE Investigation of Gasoline Price Increases; Initiated September 2003	DOE	
Department of Consumer Protection	Connecticut	DCP press release of 11/26/03 states, "While numerous factors contributed to a sharp increase in gasoline prices this summer, wholesalers and retailers were not hiking prices to pad their profits..."